Adequate provisions exist in the various labour laws including the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 to protect the interests of contract labour in terms of their wages, welfare, health and social security. Several notifications have been issued by both the Central and State Governments prohibiting employment of contract labour in perennial nature of jobs/works/processes. Regular inspections are conducted and violations are dealt with strictly in accordance with the provisions of the law, by launching prosecutions also, if necessary.

Provision of houses for beedi workers

992. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed for beedi workers in 2004-05 and in 2005-06;

(b) the funds spent for this purpose;

(c) whether Government are considering proposals to make available funds for purchase of land for housing for beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the details of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) (a): and (b) The Government has sanctioned a subsidy amount of Rs. 40.000/-per house for the construction of 15789 and 12,267 nos. of houses in 2004-05 & 2005-06 (up to January, 2006). An amount of Rs. 11.50 Crore & Rs. 47.15 Crore (up to January, 2006) was released towards subsidy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Schemes for development of rural areas

993. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific schemes have been implemented for the development of rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, in particular, and other parts of the country, in general;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any study to know the problem being encountered by farmers in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) (a): The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development in the country including Andhra Pradesh. These schemes are namely, the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP), the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY),the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), the Desert Development Programme (DDP), the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), the Swajaldhara and the Total Sanitation Programme (TSC). Recently, in order to provide legal guarantee of 100 days of employment in every financial year to every rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been passed by the Parliament, 200 districts of the country including 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh have been identified for implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in the first phase.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has evolved a comprehensive system of monitoring the execution of all its Programmes to know the problems being encountered by the target groups including farmers through periodic Progress Reports received from the States/UTs, field visits by Area Officers of the Ministry and discussions with the State Secretaries and with the Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agencies/ Chief Executive Officers of Zila Parishads/Panchayats, monitoring by the District Level Monitoring agencies and National Level Monitors. The Ministry has adopted a four pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes (ii) transparency (iii) people's partnership and (iv) accountability which helps to reduce lapses in programme implementation.